



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Lawrence B. KOOL et al.

Serial No.

09/771,186

Filing Date

January 29, 2001

For

A METHOD FOR REMOVING OXIDES AND COATINGS FROM A SUBSTRATE

Examiner

BiBi Sharidan Carrillo

Art Unit

1746

Mail Stop Fee Amendment  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

#15  
 AS  
 7/29/03  
 RECEIVED  
 JUL 22 2003  
 TC 1700

37 C.F.R. § 1.132 AFFIDAVIT

In the Office Action of May 9, 2003, claims 1-3, 6, 9-26 and 34 of the present invention were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by LaGraff (US Pat # 6,420,178).

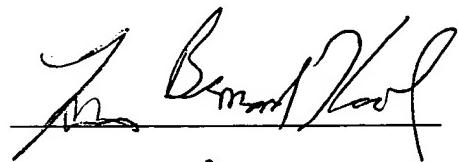
The inventorship in LaGraff is: John Robert LaGraff, Xiao-Dong Sun, James Anthony Ruud, and James Claude Carnahan. The inventorship in the present application is: Lawrence Bernard Kool and James Anthony Ruud. The inventions claimed in claims 1-3, 6, 9-26 and 34 of this present invention comprise inventions derived by the inventors of this present invention, not inventions derived by the inventors of LaGraff.

Furthermore, both LaGraff and the present application have a common assignee (General Electric Company). The assignment of the LaGraff invention to General Electric Company was recorded on 09/20/2000 at Reel/Frame: 011155/0321. The assignment of this

present invention to General Electric Company was recorded on 01/29/2001 at Reel/Frame: 011498/0360. As such, LaGraff is not an invention "by another."

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/30/2003



Lawrence Bernard Kool  
Applicant # 1

Date: 6-27-2003



James Anthony Ruud  
Applicant # 2